

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /066 W

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R 171644Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7314

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GW, PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: FRG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REACTION TO EC LIBERAL
FEDERATION

1. A SHORT, BELITTling ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 25 ISSUE OF
THE CDU ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION "UNION INTERNATIONAL"
SUGGESTS THAT FRG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DO NOT SEE THE SAME
TYPE COMPETITIVE DANGER IN THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL CORNER
THAT CDU SECRETARY-GENERAL BIEDENKOPF RECENTLY VOICED
ABOUT A CONCEIVABLE EUROPEAN SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST
POPULAR FRONT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

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2. THE CDU REACTION TO THE LIBERAL THREAT READS AS
FOLLOWS:

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE LIBERALS PRODUCE A EUROPEAN
"PAPER TIGER"

IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG ELECTIONS
THE FREE DEMOCRATS INTEND TO LAUNCH A EUROPEAN ROCKET.
LIBERAL PARTIES - OR THOSE WHICH CONSIDER THEMSELVES
SUCH - FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES WANT TO SET UP A COMMON
EUROPEAN PARTY. FOR WEEKS, DR. MARTIN BANGEMANN, BADEN-
WUERTTEMBERG'S FDP CHAIRMAN, HAS BEEN TELLING WHOEVER
WANTED TO HEAR IT THAT ON MARCH 26TH A HUGE PARTY CON-
VENTION WOULD BE STAGED.

EVEN FRENCH PRESIDENT OF STATE GISCARD D'ESTAING IS EX-
PECTED TO BLESS STUTTGART WITH A RAY OF SUNSHINE: HIS
"INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS" ARE TO JOIN THE LIBERAL EURO-
PARTY PROPAGATED BY BANGEMANN.

UPON CLOSER INSPECTION IT APPEARS THAT THESE EFFORTS
WILL NOT YIELD ANY RESULTS WHICH CAN BE COMPARED TO THE
EFFICIENCY PRACTICED IN THE OTHER MAJOR CAMPS IN THE
FREE PART OF EUROPE. GISCARD'S INTERIOR MINISTER MICHAEL
PONIATOWSKI AND THE RI'S SECRETARY-GENERAL JACQUES
DOMINATI TOLD THE CDU EXECUTIVE THAT THE INDEPENDENT
REPUBLICANS WOULD NOT JOIN ANY EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
PARTIES WHICH WAS NOT ALSO ACCESSIBLE TO ALL THE
OTHER PARTIES MAKING UP THE GISCARDIST MAJORITY. CDU
SECRETARY-GENERAL BIEDENKOPF LEARNED THAT DOMINATI
WANTED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE TAKEN UP WITH THE CDU
SINCE AFTER ALL IT INVOLVED PARTIES FOLLOWING THE SAME
DIRECTION. NOT VERY GRATIFYING FOR THE FDP. FOR THE
PURSUIT OF ITS PLANS FOR UNIFICATION, IT CAN, HOWEVER,
FALL BACK ON JEAN DURIEUX, A GISCARDIST MEMBER OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. DURIEUX HOPES THAT IT WILL BE A
LIBERAL, OR TO BE MORE PRECISE HE HIMSELF, WHO WILL
PRESIDE OVER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ONE DAY.

JUST AS BAD IS THE PLIGHT OF SOME OTHER FORCES WHICH
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BANGEMANN WANTS TO UNITE. IN ENGLAND, THE AUTHORITY OF
THE LEADER OF THE LIBERALS, JEREMY THORPE, HAS BEEN
BADLY SHAKEN. THE "YOUNG LIBERALS" ARE TO BE FOUND LEFT
OF THE SOCIALISTS IN MANY MATTERS, A FAMILIAR SIGHT FOR
GERMANS.

THE HITHERTO MODERATE ITALIAN LIBERALS, HOVERING BELOW
FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, PUSHED GIOVANNI MALAGODI,

THEIR PRESIDENT FOR MANY YEARS, ASIDE AND HAVE SET OUT TO
MOVE LEFTWARD. THE REPUBLICANS, WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN IN-
VITED TO COME TO STUTTGART, WANT TO THOROUGHLY
"RECOGNIZE" THEIR PARTY BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT ELECTIONS
IN ITALY. WHICH LEAVES US WITH GASTON THORN, THE
BRILLANT LUXEMBOURGER, WHO IS TO HAVE THE HONOR OF PRE-
SIDING OVER THE FEDERATION. THE THING ONE MOST FREQUENT-
LY HEARS ABOUT THORN IN LUXEMBOURG THESE DAYS IS: "HAD
WE HAD ELECTIONS, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE THERE. HE IS
NOT VERY OFTEN IN LUXEMBOURG ANYWAY, EVEN THOUGH THE
ECONOMIC SITUATION BECOMES MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT."

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AT THE END OF THE CONVENTION, THE FDP WANTS TO MAKE A SHOW OF GREAT UNITY IN THE STUTTGART THEATRE. IT WILL BE AN OCCASION FOR MANY BEAUTIFUL WORDS AND THE FDP WILL BE ABLE TO ONCE AGAIN GIVE PROOF OF ITS ABILITY TO COVER UP MATTERS LEFT PENDING IN SHROUDS OF FOG. THE ROCKET WILL NOT BE LAUNCHED. AND ALL THE PUBLIC WILL SEE IS A PAPER TIGER. END OF TEXT.

4. COMMENT: THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS PROBABLY OVERPLAY HERE THE BUILD-UP BEING GIVEN THE STUTTGART FOUNDING CONGRESS. FRG FREE DEMOCRATS, INCLUDING BANGEMANN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEM RESIGNED TO THE FACT THE CONGRESS WILL NOT PRODUCE THE SPECTACULAR FINAL LIBERAL AGREEMENT INITIALLY ENVISIONED. IT DOES HOWEVER APPEAR MORE AND MORE LIKELY THAT THE GISCARDISTS WILL BE AT STUTTGART ONLY ON THE SIDELINES AS GUEST OBSERVERS, RATHER THAN AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS. FRG INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CIRCUIT CONTINUES THIS MONTH WHEN BUNDESTAG VICE-PRESIDENT (AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) KAI-UWE VON HASSEL HEADS A CDU/CSU DELEGATION TO THE MARCH 18-22 ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN ROME, AND TO THE MARCH 26-68 CDS NATIONAL CONVENTION AT POVOA DO VARZIM IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. HILLENBRAND

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